From: Mark Cody
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/2/02 1:39pm
Subject: Microsoft settlement

Good morning, Please don't penalize Microsoft for giving the people the product they want.

I have been a computer user since the early 80's with the Commodore VIC20. As technology advanced and new computers entered the market, compatibility became an issue. UNIX, Commodore, Apple, and DOS didn't talk to each other and their files were not compatible. As time moved forward UNIX and DOS were the only operating systems that remained backwards compatible with their own OS. This was great advantage for business and personal computing. When you decided you needed to buy a more powerful computer to run your new software, you could still use the old computer for more mundane chores. Now you have 2 computers that can operate together. Commodor and Apple oh the other hand were not backwards compatible, so you had to throw the old one out along with all of the software, or at least have 2 computers independent of each other, unable to share files or printers. Over the years Microsoft has kept it's platform backwards compatible and has allowed users to upgrade software and hardware as they see fit. This is a significant difference between Apple and Sun. I believe the PEOPLE have selected Microsoft as their Operating System of choice because Microsoft provided the user the features they wanted most, low cost and backwards compatibility. Microsoft has always operated from an open platform, allowing anyone to create hardware to run on their OS, while Sun requires only Sun certified hardware be used in their systems.

Why is Microsoft so popular? Why did the others fail?

IBM, Initial deployment of DOS, high cost of hardware.
Microsoft, secondary deployment of DOS on low cost IBM clones.
Apple, High cost, not backwards compatible.
Commodor, not backwards compatible, few business applications.
Sun, high cost of hardware, no GUI.
IBM, initial deployment of Windows NT as OS2, created a roadblock for second party software development.
Sun, Solaris running X-windows and Microsoft office, High cost.

Microsoft has consistently given the user the features they wanted at a price they could afford, isn't that what makes America great?

Thank you,
Mark Cody

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